

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9154
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4108

GUATEMALA FOR IESCA (AL WARREN); STATE ALSO FOR LA/MRSD
(GEORGE PHILLIPS) AND ARA/RPP (JOHN O'GRADY)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES
SUBJ: AIFLD REPORTEDLY MAKES UNILATERAL DECISION TO APPOINT
COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR (CPD) FOR EL SAVADOR

REF SAN SALVADOR 3816

SUMMARY. RICHARD OULAHAN, PART OF AFL-CIO GROUVKTHAT VISITED
EL SALVADOR JULY 17-20, INFORMED EMBOFFS OF HIS PROSPECTIVE
APPOINTMENT AS AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR (CPD) FOR EL
SALVADOR. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT UPCOMING AIFLD PROGRAMS FOR
THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS). END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF AFL-CIO GROUPS VISIT TO EL SALVADOR
JULY 17-20 (SEE REFTTEL, ONE OF MEMBERS OF GROUP, RICHARD
OULAHAN, STAYED BEHIND TO LOOK INTO THE CONDITIONS OF
INDIVIDUAL UCS COOPERATIVES AND TO WORK WITH THE GOES
ADVISORS TO THE UCS IN ORDER TO RENDER WHAT ASSISTANCE HE
COULD. THIS AT LEAST WAS WHAT THE AFL-CIO GROUP
TOLD EMBOFFS WOULD BE THE BASIS ON WHICH OULAHAN
WOULD BE STAYING ON. IN THEIR TALK WITH MINISTER OF
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LABOR AND SUBSECREARY OF LABOR ON JULY 19, ARA
LABOR ADVISSOR JOHN O'GRADY, POLITICAL OFFICER AND
LABOR OFFICER URGED THAT OULAHAN BE PERMITTED TO
STAY ONVZO LOOK INTO CONDITIONS IN INDIVIDUAL UCS
COOPERATIVES AND STATED THAT BY SO DOING, HE COULD MAKE
A REAL CONTRIBUTION (SEE MEMCON OF JULY 19.)

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL OFXICER AND LABEL OFFICER ON AUGUEST 9, OULAHAN SAID THAT DURING THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 5-6, DURING A TRIP TO GUATEMALA WHERE HE MET WITH AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM DOHERTY, HE HAD BEEN OFFERED THE JOB OF COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR (CPD) FOR EL SALVADOR. OULAHAN ADDED THACMHE WAS SUPPOSED TO INFORM DOHERTY BY MONDAY, AUGUST 14 AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD ACCEPT. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS "90 PERCENT SURE" HE WOULD ACCEPT THE OB. WHEN ASKED IF ARA LABOR ADVISOR JOHN O'GRADY OR GEORGE PHILLIPS OF LA/MRSD HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THIS PROSPECTIVE CHANGE OF STATUS, OULAHAN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

3. OULAHAN ALSO SAID THAT CPA RUPERT SKOFIELD OF AUDS/W WOULD BE ARRIVING IN SAN SALVADOR AUGUST 20 AND THAT HE WOULD BE CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS IN ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS). HE ADDED THAT THE GOES TECHNICAL

ADVISORS TO THE UCS HAD BEEN ADVISED OF THIS AND THAT HE WAS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF USING MINISTRY OF LABOR FACILITIES FOR THE WORKSHOPS. OULAHAN STATED THAT AN ISRAELI TECHNICIAN PRESENTLY WORKING IN HONDURAS WOULD BE PAYING A SHORT VISIT TO EL SALVWROR TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH AND THAT MICHAEL HAMMER WOULD BE PAYING ANOTHER VISIT TO EL SALVADOR
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AROUND SEPTEMBER 1.

4. WHEN ASKED IF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, OULAHAN SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13. POLITICAL OFFICER URGED OULAHAN TO PAY A VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR "SOONER RATHER THAN LATER" TO INFORM IT OF THESE UPCOMING ACITIVIES. BOTH POLITICAL AND LABOR OFFICER POINTED OUT TO OULAHAN THAT HE WAS ONLY ON A TOURIST VISA AND COULD WELL BE EXPELLED FOR ENGAGING IN NON-TOURIST ACTIVITIES. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CHANGE IN HIS STATUS FROM OBSERVER TO HEAD OF AIFLD OPERATIONS RAN CONTRARY NOT ONLY TO WHAT THE AFL-CIO GROUP AND THE EMBASSY HAD TOLD GOES CONCERNING OULAHNS STATUS, BUT ALSO HAMMERS ACCEPTANCE (DURING HIS FEBRUARY-MARCH 1978 VISIT) OF THE NEGOTIATION AND SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND AIFLD CONCERNING FUTURE AIFLD OPERATIONS IN EL SALVADOR (SAN SALVADOR 1345). POLITICAL OFFICER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF GOES AND EMBASSY,

OULAHAN COULD NOT HAVE STATUS OF A CPD IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT ASSUMING SUCH A STATUS WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF GOES COULD WELL MAKE HIM LIABLE TO DEPORTATION BY GOVERNMENT. OULAHAN SAID THAT HE AND OTHER AIFLD OFFICIALS WERE WELL AWARE OF THIS AND OTHER RISKS BUT THAT THEY WERE DETERMINED TO PROCEED ALONG THIS COURSE.

5. COMMENT. IN TAKING THIS UNILATERAL ACTION, IT IS INTERESTING THAT AIFLD APPEARS TO BE DISREGARDING (1) EARLIER PRECEDENT OF SEEKING EMBASSY CONCURRENCE IN SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL PROPOSED AS CPD; (2) EARLIER DISCUSSION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR EMBASSY-AIFLD RELATIONSHIP; AND (3) TOTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORT OF AIFLD DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR OFFICIALS.
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